

## **Critical Infrastructure Examined At IDHS**

To enhance a response to any kind of emergency, IDHS has been diligently working to identify and secure the important assets in Indiana that are essential for the continued functioning of the Hoosier State's society and economy. These assets are known as Critical Infrastructure, and their security is essential for the reduction of vulnerable areas throughout the state.

On a national level, US DHS has established the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, which has clearly defined the critical infrastructure and key resources that are important on a national level. US DHS also created a model outline, the National Infrastructure Protection Program, which Indiana is now using as a basis for a state-level program, which includes definition of sites that would be crucial in a state, county or local response or recovery from an incident.

Critical infrastructure and key resources include systems, organizations and businesses that are controlled within both the public and private sectors. For example, transportation and communications systems; water and power lines; and public institutions including schools, post offices and prisons can all be considered as 'critical' for sustaining the state in a time of crisis. In preparation for a natural disaster or terrorist attack, these critical facilities would be evaluated to identify vulnerabilities, and recommendations would be made to improve security and reduce recovery time after the incident. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is working with the public and private sector owners of critical infrastructure and key resources to define, identify, assess and secure critical infrastructure and key resources statewide.

For further question or comments regarding Critical Infrastructure, please contact Roger Koelpin at 317-232-0181.